



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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May 06, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

1-P May 6, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE CITY OF EL MONTE AND AUTHORIZE
AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO
AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS FOR THE RIO VISTA PARK TREE PLANTING PROJECT
(FIRST DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$84,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to Amigos de Los Rios for the Rio Vista Park Tree Planting Project in the City of El Monte.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Rio Vista Park Tree Planting Project in the City of El Monte categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the proposed Project involves installation of accessory structures and new landscaping, and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the proposed Project.
2. Allocate Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District in the amount of \$84,000, to the City of El Monte for a grant to Amigos de Los Rios for the proposed Rio Vista Park Tree Planting Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a \$84,000 grant to

Amigos de Los Rios for the proposed Rio Vista Park Tree Planting Project, after the City of El Monte assigns the right to apply to Amigos de Los Rios, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$84,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the City of El Monte (El Monte) for a grant to Amigos de Los Rios for the proposed Rio Vista Park Tree Planting Project (Project).

Amigos de los Rios is a non-profit organization whose mission is to create sustainable open spaces, strengthen community life, and preserve the environment in underserved areas of Southern California. The organization works closely with community members to design, build, and restore parks and open spaces for recreation and education.

The proposed Project consists of replacing trees in Rio Vista Park that have reached a height not in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations, and installing shade sails to complement the replacement trees.

The total Project cost is estimated at \$414,594. The recommended \$84,000 in Cities Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$255,594 from the County Aviation Fund and a \$75,000 Federal Aviation Authority Grant.

It is also recommended, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grant after El Monte assigns the right to apply to Amigos de Los Rios and only if applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, and to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds projects previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing safety and accessibility in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant, in the amount of \$84,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe

Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. Amigos de Los Rios has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. El Monte is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of tree canopy replacement and shade sail installation, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (h) and 15303 (e) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(j) and 3(b) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project involves maintenance of existing landscaping and installation of small new structures.

The proposed Project includes no expansion of an existing use, meaning structures replaced will be located on the same site as existing structures and will have the same purpose and capacity. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office